

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SR-02

ORM-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IGA-02 FDRE-00 OMB-01 DPW-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 HEW-08 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SWF-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /211 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5884

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAG: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: GOT VIEWS ON REFUGEE PROBLEM

1. EMBOFF CALLED MORNING AUGUST 29 ON YUKSEL SOYLEMEZ, FOREIGN
MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UN AFFAIRS, TO DISCUSS CYPRUS
REFUGEE AND RELIEF PROBLEMS. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION,
SOYLEMEZ MADE FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY (AND OBVIOUSLY TURKISH)
POINTS:

A. HE SAID ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED FIGURE OF GREEK CYPRIOT
REFUGEES HAD BEEN "ABOUT 200,000", THAT IT HAD NOT GONE DOWN TO
130,000, AND HE EXPECTED SOON TO SEE A FIGURE IN THE RANGE OF
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70-80,000. WHATEVER THE FIGURE, SOYLEMEZ SAID HIS GOVERNMENT

DID NOT EXPECT THE SITUATION TO BE A DESPERATE ONE EXCEPT FOR THAT OF A FEW THOUSAND VERY POOR GREEK CYPRIOTS FORCED OUT OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

B. SOYLEMEZ CONTINUED THAT GOT APPRECIATES FACT THERE IS VERY REAL PROBLEM FOR THIS LATTER GROUP AND HOPES INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT HELP NOTING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME 30-40,000 TURK CYPRIOT REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND FOR TEN YEARS, AND THE WORLD HAS IGNORED THEM.

C. PRINCE SADRUDIN AGA KHAN'S APPOINTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH CYPRUS WAS AGREED TO "RELUCTANTLY" BY THE GOT. SINCE THE PRINCE'S ORGANIZATION HAS NEVER CLASSIFIED THE TURK CYPRIOT REFUGEES FROM TEN YEARS AGO AS "REFUGEES", TURKEY DOES NOT CONSIDER THE PRINCE'S ACTIVITIES AS BALANCED.

D. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOT HAS BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH THE ICRC ACTIVITIES AND WITH ITS LEADER, MARTI. SOYLEMEZ NOTED THAT GOT CONSIDERED COOPERATION OF TURKISH RED CRESCENT WITH ICRC AT THIS TIME TO BE VERY IMPORTANT.

E. SOYLEMEZ GRUMBLED THAT THE WORLD PRESS HAS IGNORED FACT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 15,000 TURK CYPRIOT REFUGEES NOW ON THE TWO UK BASES. AT FIRST, HE SAID, BRITISH AUTHORITIES WERE PROVIDING THESE "POOR PEOPLE" WITH "ONLY SOUP AND TEA," AND SO GOT HAS FLOWN IN TENTS AND FOOD TO HELP THE SITUATION.

2. ENTIRE TONE OF SOYLEMEZ' PRESENTATION WAS TYPICAL OF THAT WE ARE RECEIVING FROM GOT OFFICIALS THESE DAYS, I.E., TURKISH PROBLEMS ARE BEING IGNORED AND GREEKS ARE GETTING BOTH PUBLICATION AND ASSISTANCE.

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